



North Andover Community
Access & Media, Inc.
PO Box 125
North Andover, MA 01845

March 29, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Promoting the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video (DN 16-41)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

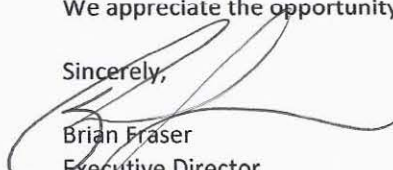
I am writing on behalf of North Andover Community Access & Media, Inc. (North Andover CAM). North Andover CAM is a community media organization serving a town with a population close to 30,000 about twenty miles north of Boston. Our organization engages people in the community of all ages to produce diverse programming and it also works with the municipality to televise current government proceedings live to the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information for the FCC's inquiry. The FCC asks the following questions regarding Public, Educational and Government Access channels in the inquiry: "We seek comment on MVPD's practices with respect to making PEG programming information available to subscribers. To the extent that MVPDs do not make this information available, is this for technical reasons, and if so, can the technical barriers be surmounted? Is the Congressionally-imposed prohibition against editorial control of PEG channels relevant to this issue? What is the source of the Commission's authority in this area, if any?" Our cable television schedule is available online but one of the most common comments from our viewers when they approach us is that they cannot find what time a show they are looking for is going to be on. The primary way that customers are instructed to record programs on the device provided by the cable companies, is to select the show in the electronic programming guide and set it to record. The schedules for the local channels are not available through the guide so consumers are being limited on a service that they are paying for.

The FCC also asks a series of questions about the ability of independent channels to achieve distribution on MVPD systems and the negotiating practices of MVPDs. North Andover CAM invests capital in high quality video production equipment including an upcoming fully High Definition television studio that will be ready to deliver a High Definition signal to the town's residents. There is no doubt that community media stations are at a great disadvantage based on the quality of the signal that is sent to viewers in their homes. To insure that community media stays relevant to its viewers and to its potential viewers, the cable companies must be mandated to include PEG programming on HD tiers and must be mandated to include programming data from community media on electronic programming guides.

We appreciate the opportunity to enter this information into the record.

Sincerely,


Brian Fraser
Executive Director